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JAPANESE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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CLOTHING, PROTECTIVE, ANTI-BACTERIAL, LABORATORY,
RUBBER, WITH CARRYING CASE

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MEDICAL ANALYSIS SECTION
5250th Technical Intelligence Company
APO 500

16 March 1946.

Clothing, Protective, Anti-Bacterial, Laboratory,
Rubber, With Carrying Case

SOURCE: Army Medical College, Tokyo, Japan.

IMPORTANCE: Not previously reported.

DESCRIPTION: The clothing consists of trousers, coat, hood, apron and boots, all made of a lightweight fabric which is completely rubberized on all exterior surfaces. All seams are stitched and sealed with rubberized tape. Straps, to insure a snug fit, are provided at waist of trousers, ankles of trousers, sleeves of coat, neck of hood, shoulders of apron, and top of boots. In addition, the coat has a protective flap, buttons and a belt. In the front of the hood is a transparent plastic window, 4 3/4 inches wide and 3 1/4 inches high, which allows limited vision to the wearer. Directly below this are six breath ports, covered with a gauze mask and a protective cover which buckles over the mask. The clothing is worn so that edges of one garment overlap another, the trousers over the boots, the coat over the trousers, the hood over the coat, and the apron over the coat and trousers. While not in use, the clothes are stored and carried in a canvas case.

COMMENT: The suit is designed to protect a laboratory worker in the "Study of Pathogens" section of the field laboratory which accompanies a Japanese combat division, and several such suits were

standard equipment in each division. In conjunction with rubber gloves, the suit would provide considerable protection against spilling of liquid cultures or the handling of anthrax-infected cadavers. The suit is almost air tight, which results in its being very uncomfortable for routine use where it is usually considered unnecessary anyway. However, it is not air-tight enough to give protection against, for example, bacteria-laden smoke which might be considered a B.W. agent.

The inclusion of the suit in the field division laboratory is concluded, therefore, to be a reflection of the well known bacteriophobia of the Japanese (everyday street use of gauze masks, refusal to use cloth handkerchiefs or oral clinical thermometers, etc.) rather than a proposed defense against B.W.

Photographs; Fig. 1 - Clothing as worn, front view.

Fig. 2 - Clothing as worn, rear view.



Fig. 1 - Clothing as worn, front view.



Fig. 2 - Clothing as worn, rear view.